

Potterham, William

c Deah, Faculty of Education

July 1915-Mar. 1916

46

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF EDUCATION

July 19, 1915.

Dr. R. A. Falconer,

Gordon Bay,

Muskoka, Ont.

Dear Mr. President:

It is unfair to worry you with business matters in the July dog days. I have striven to avoid it, but I cannot altogether escape.

Dr. Stevenson, as the press has told you, has accepted a Normal School post. He gives several explanations. He is glad to be free from High School teaching, and its problems in discipline. He sees better financial prospects in the Normal School service. Recent experiences have taught him that professional promotion is swifter via the provincial service. The Faculty of Education is a blind alley!

It is idle to regret Dr. Stevenson's withdrawal. The Normal School appointment is of such a character that it is impossible now to arrest that withdrawal. The University must make the best of a bad situation and find a successor. The headmaster and I have given some thought to the matter and have prepared a provisional list of 'possibles' - Irwin of Oakwood Collegiate Institute, Van Every of the High School of Commerce, and Pickering of the Ottawa Normal School. A preliminary interview with Irwin was not satisfactory. He was attracted by the work, and by the professional status that attaches to the work, but - the salary! He now receives \$2400 for day work and \$300 for night work. We have another interview to-day and failing a decision on his part, I shall take the liberty of interviewing Van Every.

One or two difficulties stare us in the face. There is your difficulty. Assuming that you endorse my recommendation, will it not be difficult for you to get your recommendation before the Board at a reasonably early date? And there is the appointee's difficulty. It becomes daily a more difficult matter for him to get a release from his Board. Irwin lays much stress upon this. He was transferred a week ago from Oakwood to Harbord. The Toronto Board is on its vacation, and Hagarty, all affairs settled, is somewhere in New Ontario!

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF EDUCATION

July 19, 1915.

The Summer Session has run half its course. The attendance is better than last year and the spirit of the students in the various courses is good. It is to be feared, however, (or shall I say expected?) that an administrative authority so vigorous in its centralizing tendencies as the Department of Education will soon take over full control. The Summer Session has become too big an institution to be administered at long range!

A Ford car is a very poor substitute for a canoe or a dinghy, and Ontario is not Devon. And yet we have been getting some satisfaction out of trips hither and thither throughout the Province.

Boys do not take kindly to Fords. You may assure Gilbert, however, that Fords do things. Mine has travelled 1500 miles in one month, made a great void in my pocket book, smashed a gate post, upset a buggy with occupants, and kept me from church for several Sundays.

I hope that Mrs. Falconer and the boys thrive at Gordon Bay. Give my regards to the Sinclairs and their bees.

Very sincerely yours,

W. Pakenham

C O P Y .

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF EDUCATION

44

July 30, 1915.

The Chairman and Members,

The Board of Governors,

University of Toronto.

Gentlemen:

I have been offered, and have accepted, a position in the Normal School, Toronto, which is more attractive than the position which I now hold in the Faculty of Education. I beg therefore to present my resignation to take effect on the 31st of August next.

In offering my resignation I should like to express my appreciation of the consideration which has been shown to me during my five years of service, by Dean Pakenham, Professor Crawford, and other members of the staff, with whom I have been associated.

Perhaps at the same time I may be permitted to express regret that the University has not been in a position to make a proper adjustment of salaries or to provide such relief to an overburdened staff as will enable the lecturers to do their most effective work. Had such adjustment and relief been provided I should not have accepted an offer elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,

O.J.Stevenson.

(Lecturer on Methods in English
in the Faculty of Education.)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Aug 4, 1915.

Dear Mr. F. Leamer:

My anxiety about the English position does not diminish. Fearing that the approach of the Board's meeting without word from me may give you some anxiety I send a very brief report on progress. Of the three men selected for consideration, one was passed over for cause and the other two, Lavin and Van Every, have declined a recommendation. Today I am quite at a loss how to proceed. Every road has led to a blind alley. I shall continue the efforts to find a way out, and may be able to report greater progress before the Board's next meeting. However, you should hear from me in the next three or four days you may conclude that I am still without light and in a 'peak of trouble'.

The S. S. closes on Friday. My wife and I have planned a short canoe trip for next week, but the English difficulty or conditions at home may intervene to upset the plan.

I hope that yesterday's weather did not reach you at Gordon Bay. It was "some wedder" as our Finnish maid declares. A weather or a fiercer summer storm I have not seen.

An eloquent report 150
students in 2 years S. S. wants —
many picnics, much enthusiasm, great progress.

Very sincerely yours,

W. P. Leamer

[Aug, 1915] ?
41

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF EDUCATION

106 Spadina Rd., Toronto
Tuesday —

Dear Mr. F. Allen:

Having thrown one bit of business
into your vacation quiet I am tempted tonight to
fling a second bit. Perhaps our greatest single need
here is a woman — a woman teacher, counsellor,
or intermediary. We had about 250 women
students last year and we shall probably go
beyond 250 next year! Is it vain to dream
such a dream as the following? Appoint
a woman as lecturer in methods in
English and history (good man specialists in
English and history are scarce) and pay
her less than we now pay our 'heads'
as she will do less work. This
payment might mean something between
\$1400 and ⁴2000. and add an instructor in
English and history (man) to The University
Schools. Of course this plan means ultimately

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF EDUCATION

an increased expenditure of \$1200 or \$1500. It will mean an increase at once of \$800-\$1200, and so it is now quite impossible. I suggest it to you merely to indicate the direction in which your thoughts might run and not with a recommendation for action.

This plan would solve several of the problems that cluster about our abnormal distribution of work between men and women. It would ^{also} give us an opportunity to 'try out' the organization that Stevenson desired, viz. lectureships without instructorships in the Schools. —

Irwin, I may add, will not accept the vacated post. The salary does not attract him, or the excess of work.

I have seen Mr. Müller recently. He is very 'blue'. His break into the business world was temporary in character and, I fear, unsatisfactory.
Vg. ^{Senior Group} ^{W. Baker}

December 4th, 1915

Dean Pakenham,

Faculty of Education.

Dear Dean Pakenham:

I spoke to the Bursar with regard to the communication that you have had from the Department of Education in the matter of the payment of an extra fee for those who wish to be relieved of their obligation to teach in the schools of the Ontario Provincial system the first year after completing their course in the Faculty of Education. He agrees with me that if the Department will formally ask the Board of Governors to take this action they will almost certainly do so. Will you kindly communicate with the Department in this matter?

Yours sincerely,

President.

January 8th, 1916

Dean Fakenham,

Faculty of Education.

Dear Dean Fakenham:

I have asked you to act as Chairman of a Committee which is to be in charge of the rooms in the Household Science Building which have been set aside for the use of the women students of the University.

The names of the Committee are, in addition to yourself, Professor M. M. Wallace of University College, Miss Laird, Miss Addison, and three women students, one from University College, who is Miss Storey, one from Victoria College, Miss Clarke, and one from the Faculty of Education, Miss Hay.

Yours sincerely,

President.

12

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
February 23, 1916.

The President,

University of Toronto.

Dear Mr. President:

"THE SCHOOL", a journal published by members of the staff of the Faculty of Education, will complete its fourth year and fourth Volume in June next. When "THE SCHOOL" was launched the Faculty of Education had just entered upon its work in its new building and its expenditures were increasing rapidly. It was not thought wise to ask the cooperation of the Governors and the journal appeared as a private venture. It was published by the members of the staff who assumed all financial responsibility.

In the first year "THE SCHOOL" had a nominal deficit of less than \$100. In the second year it had a surplus of about \$150. The war came upon us in the third year and remains with us this year. The surplus disappeared in the third year and if the projected plans fail may become a deficit of \$460 at the end of the fourth year.

The circulation of "THE SCHOOL" has not been injured by the war. The office distributed 4850 copies in January - the largest number in the history of the journal. As its regular paid circulation is more than 4500, "THE SCHOOL" enters probably more than one half the schools of Ontario and is read by more than one half the teachers of Ontario. This is the bright side.

"THE SCHOOL" lives on its advertising. The subscriptions alone will not pay the printer's bills. In its second year "THE SCHOOL" had 36 pages of advertising. But it advertises books, pictures, apparatus, etc. These are luxuries in war times. To-day "The SCHOOL" has difficulty in holding 18 pages of advertising. This is the dark side of the picture.

The members of the staff of the Faculty of Education do not wish to abandon "THE SCHOOL". It has a work to do and is doing it with a fair degree of success. They have tried to retrench as regards the administration of the journal but have met with little success. Contributors (chiefly in the second year) have received from "THE SCHOOL" in four years not more than a total of \$100. The manager who is also managing editor, advertising agent, subscription agent, and publisher receives in payment of all his services the usual commission of an advertising agent, viz.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF EDUCATION

February 23, 1916.

2.

25% of the advertising contracts secured by him. He will receive this year for all work done not more than \$200. Some slight retrenchment is possible through cheaper paper, fewer cuts, etc., and plans have been evolved to that end. The deficit may be reduced further by more advertising. Certainly the staff are not sparing in efforts to that end. The Department of Education, which has always been cordial in its support (having given the journal two pages of advertising monthly for the last four years), has now promised to increase very materially its advertising. The staff have hopes that these measures will bring the relief so necessary as long as the war lasts. But hopes are not realities!

It has often occurred to the staff that "THE SCHOOL" should stand in a closer relation to the Faculty of Education and the University, in some such relation, indeed, as other journals now aided by the Board of Governors. Some such relation now obtains. The office of "THE SCHOOL" is in one of the rooms of the annex of this building. The University heats and lights this room. (1) But could the University not go farther and meet the cost of the extension telephone for which "THE SCHOOL" pays \$34 per year through the Superintendent of Buildings? (2) And could it not rule that "THE SCHOOL" is entitled to the same rates for work done by The University Press as any circular or pamphlet issued by the University? (3) And could it not place "THE SCHOOL" on the list of journals aided by special grants? "THE SCHOOL" on its part is willing to describe itself as "published by the Faculty of Education of the University of Toronto", to present its accounts or books for approval or auditing to the officers of the University, and to act under such instructions as the University may issue.

Yours very truly,

W. Pakenham

W.P.

10

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF EDUCATION

March 3, 1916.

The President,

University of Toronto,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. President:

Permit me to call your attention to the relation of the University's Summer School to the teachers of Ontario.

Possibly I should begin with some statistics:

1. Twenty-seven of the headmasters of the Continuation Schools hold degrees in Arts. Fourteen out of the twenty-seven are graduates of Queen's.

2. Ninety-four of the High School Principals of Ontario are graduates of Toronto and fifty-two are graduates of Queen's. The number of principalships held by Queen's graduates has increased by 40% during the last five years; the number held by Toronto graduates has decreased by 4%.

3. Of the sixty-eight inspectors who hold degrees in Arts from Queen's and Toronto, Queen's claims forty, an increase of eleven during the last five years, and Toronto twenty-eight, an increase of four. Of the inspector's certificates awarded to Ontario teachers during the last five years, Queen's graduates have received four to every one awarded to Toronto graduates.

There are several explanations of this situation. Permit me to refer to one. For reasons mainly economic teachers will often choose - and must often choose - short cuts to certificates. Extra-mural instruction and summer instruction offer short-cuts. Very many Ontario teachers take the Queen's extra-mural courses towards a degree in Arts. Queen's Summer School registered seventy-two students in 1914, and one hundred and fifty in 1915. (The Queen's Summer School, by the way, was created after the Toronto Summer School.)

In the meantime, Toronto's Summer School in the work of the Arts Course has ended in utter failure. Hedged in by less flexible regulations, Toronto's degree courses did not attract students and were abandoned three years ago.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF EDUCATION

March 3, 1916.

2.

The Department of Education exhibits a growing interest in Summer Schools for teachers. Through the University, the Guelph Agricultural College, the College of Art, and the Model Schools, it gave free instruction last year to about twelve hundred teachers. It is certain to go much farther in the near future. Already it has planned for a new course in 1916 for inspectors and a new course in French Conversation and Pronunciation for High School teachers of French. It is not now difficult to conceive of it as willing to help teachers towards degrees in Arts by means of free Summer Schools. Already it has been urged by student-petitions, University resolutions, and interviews with delegations to subsidize the Summer Course in Arts at Queen's "as the only Ontario Summer Course in Arts for teachers". Will it consent? Can Toronto afford to be without these courses in Arts when or if the Department of Education consents?

To meet the situation Toronto has reorganized her Summer School. These Summer courses, without degradation of standard, have been made more flexible and more attractive than they were three years ago. It remains now to advertise these courses. They must be advertised freely and fully. This will cost money. It remains also to give the courses even though the number of students be small. This also will cost money. The money for advertising is needed now and will be needed annually for the next four or five years.

Yours very truly,

W. Pakenham

W.P.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Faculty of Education